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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, January 28, 2008, at 2 p.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2008

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable AMY KLOBUCHAR, a Senator from the State of Minnesota.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Merciful Father in Heaven, we pray today for the hurting people of our Nation and world. Use us to help the poor, the homeless, the hungry, and the jobless. Make us Your instruments to bring relief to those who live in daily fear of financial calamity.

We pray for the Members of the Senate who feel the hurt of the marginalized and are working for equitable and just legislation. Give them wisdom and courage as they bear the burdens of our society in domestic and international affairs.

We pray for those outwardly composed who suffer within and are not free to verbalize their pain. Comfort them with Your presence. Help us all to know You better that we may love You more. We pray in the Name of Him whose love is unconditional and whose care is unlimited. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable AMY KLOBUCHAR led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 24, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable AMY KLOBUCHAR, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, today, we are going to quickly resume consideration of S. 2248, the FISA legislation. Currently, the Judiciary Committee substitute amendment is pending. We hope to reach a time agreement with that amendment soon. I hope we can do it prior to the 12:30 event that we Democrats always have on Thursday. I hope we can do that. I hope there will be a number of rollcall votes today on

FISA-related amendments, that we can complete action on this important legislation as quickly as possible.

FISA

Mr. REID. Madam President, as I indicated, we started this debate again last evening. Both the Senate Intelligence and Judiciary Committees have jurisdiction over this legislation. Senators ROCKEFELLER and BOND, Senators LEAHY and SPECTER worked very hard on their particular aspects of this legislation.

We, under the regular order, in a case of sequential referral—that is what we have in this matter—the Intelligence Committee text is the underlying bill, and the Judiciary Committee text is automatically pending as a complete substitute.

Last night, Chairman LEAHY, with the authorization of a majority of the committee, sent a slightly modified version of the Judiciary Committee amendment to the desk. We will have a vote on that amendment sometime today. The Judiciary Committee made what I believe to be some important improvements in this legislation, adding protections for the privacy of law-abiding Americans.

This is a strong bill. I will support it. I encourage my colleagues to do so as well.

In the event the full Judiciary Committee bill is not accepted by the Senate, I hope we can adopt some of the individual improvements from the Judiciary bill that is now in the form of an amendment.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S225